

The Desert SUSTAINER

December 19, 2003

Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

Chairman of Joint Chiefs, USO visit Anaconda

**Story by Pfc. Christopher Fincham
3d COSCOMPAO**

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and his wife joined the president of the United Services Organization, pro-wrestler Kurt Angle, model Leeann Tweeden, racecar driver Mike Wallace and comedian Robin Williams on a visit to Logistical Support Area Anaconda Wednesday, to show their support of troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're here for one reason, and that's to wish you all a happy holidays the best way we can," said Gen. Richard Myers, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Through your efforts over here you've

given hope to 25 million folks in this land of Iraq," said Myers. "Hope for freedom and prosperity."

"This is your moment in history," said Myers. "And you've performed superbly."

All of the guests took time to thank troops for their sacrifices and congratulated them for the capture of Saddam Hussien. Myers, specifically recognized the importance of Anaconda and its soldiers' mission, calling them the backbone of operations in Iraq.

"It all starts from the kind of support that you provide," said Myers. "You are the backbone."



Photo by Pfc. Christopher Fincham



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Photo by Sgt. Grant Calease



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(Clockwise) Leeann Tweeden, Robin Williams, Mike Wallace and Gen. Richard Myers thanked the soldiers of LSA Anaconda during a USO show, December 17.

Stryker troops see first combat action since arriving in Iraq

FOB PACESETTER, Iraq (Army News Service, Dec. 17, 2003) – Infantrymen from 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, took to the roads and villages north of Baghdad on Dec. 14, patrolling to keep the peace.

As darkness fell on Forward Operating Base Pacesetter, the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers made final checks on their weapons systems and equipment.

“Things could go either way,” said Spc. Michael Findell, Company A, 5th Bn., 20th Inf. Reg. from San Diego, referring to the capture of Saddam Hussein. “[Insurgents] could retaliate or think the terror is over.”

Findell said he was going to do his job as a Soldier and protect the guys to his left and right.

Later that night, the Soldiers went to work and headed for their tactical assembly area. Before leaving, 1st Lt. Joel Beck, Company A executive officer, clarified for his Soldiers the threat that still exists, specifically to the air guards in the rear of his Stryker combat vehicle.

As they drove through the city, Soldiers saw a large flock of pigeons take flight. The pigeons were apparently used as a signal to announce the arrival of the

Soldiers in Stryker infantry vehicles.

Moments later, two men on a motorcycle, firing automatic weapons used children leaving school as cover to attack the patrol. Soldiers, in consideration of the children and a nearby mosque, employed snipers to target the attackers and successfully suppressed the enemy’s ability to inflict damage. The attackers fled as the patrol continued their movement through the city.

A short distance later the patrol was attacked again by automatic weapons fire from a group using an overgrown field for cover. In a simultaneous action attackers detonated an improvised explosive device

to the south of the patrol.

The patrol was then inundated by fire when, in a continuing coordinated effort, the patrol was attacked by former regime elements using rocket propelled grenades coming from the west and mortar fire that emanated from the north. The enemy’s attack was ineffective, causing neither casualties nor damage to any vehicle.

“We moved in on their right flank to allow them to continue to fight,” said Beck. “We had a couple of small contacts and firefights but Company B had the bulk of the engagement.”

Snipers from “Attack” Company took positions on the roof near a casualty collection point. The Soldiers relied on their years of training, including military operations, urban terrain training, to enter the building.

At the end of the day, a company commander confirmed that 11 attackers were killed. After confirmation, Samarran residents moved the attackers’ bodies from the area.

There were no coalition casualties during the firefight. And, except a civilian automobile that was damaged by a rocket-propelled grenade, there was no damage to any other property or equipment.



photo by Spc. Clinton Tarzia

Soldiers of Battle Company, 5th Battalion, 20 Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) conduct route reconnaissance, a presence patrol, a civilian assessment and combat operations contributing to the stability of Samarra, Iraq, Dec. 15.

TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:

Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year’s - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

NEW PX HOURS

The Logistical Support Area Anaconda Post Exchange has new hours of operation. The facility will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The PX will be open these hours seven days a week. The new hours provide extended shopping hours and will help facilitate soldiers shopping for the holiday season.

RESERVE ID CARDS

Due to units being extended, many reservists’ ID cards are set to expire. Units confronting this issue should contact Staff Sgt. Jonathon Trussell, 90th Personnel Support Battalion, to set up an appointment to renew their ID cards. Trussell can be reached at 551-9903. Amendment orders are needed for new IDs.

CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at grant.calease@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

All-Stars Rodriguez, Ramirez, Garciaparra in the air

NEW YORK (AP) — The baseball players' union got in the middle of the proposed Alex Rodriguez trade Wednesday, forcing the Red Sox and Rangers to seek another way to complete the blockbuster deal they had already agreed on.

Boston and Texas said they settled on all the players involved in the trade. The

Red Sox and A-Rod agreed to restructure the shortstop's \$252 million contract, Rangers owner Tom Hicks said.

But in a rare move, the union intervened and rejected the agreement, changes that were needed before Texas could send the AL MVP to the Red Sox for Manny Ramirez.

Commissioner Bud Selig set a 5 p.m. Thursday deadline for the trade to be completed. He might also go against the union and approve the restructuring, likely forcing the matter to arbitration.

Rodriguez spent the evening in New York, saying he didn't want to make any comments that could upset the negotiations.

"It's the teams' hands," said his agent, Scott Boras said. "Unless Boston comes back with a proposal that meets the union's criteria, then the deal will not get done."

Because union official Gene Orza and management lawyer Rob Manfred traveled to Florida for Bubba Trammell's grievance hearing Thursday, the deadline may have to be extended.

If the deal does go through, Boston would likely trade longtime shortstop

Nomar Garciaparra, possibly to the Chicago White Sox.

"Given the impending deadline imposed by the office of the commissioner, the actions of the players' association may, unfortunately, determine this issue," Hicks said.

The commissioner's office said it was studying the agreement between Rodriguez and the Red Sox, but Orza said it was unacceptable.

"It was clear it crossed the line ... and by a huge margin," Orza said after meeting with Rodriguez, his agent and Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein. "We did suggest an offer the club could make to Alex that would not do that. As was its right, the club chose not to make it."

It was not immediately clear what the development meant to the proposed swap of baseball's only \$20 million-a-year players.

"The dialogue is continuing," Boras said.

The only other time in recent years the union has been so involved in this kind of negotiation was when Mo Vaughn went from the Anaheim Angels to the New York Mets after the 2001 season.



The Alex Rodriguez-for-Manny Ramirez megadeal has hit another snag ... and time is running out. AP

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC		MIDWEST	
76ers	—	Spurs	—
Celtics	0.5	Nuggets	—
Nets	0.5	Mavs	.5
Heat	4	T-wolves	.5
Wizards	4.5	Rockets	1.5
Knicks	4.5	Grizzlies	1.5
Magic	8.5	Jazz	3
CENTRAL		PACIFIC	
Pacers	—	Lakers	—
Hornets	2	Kings	1.5
Pistons	3.5	Warriors	6
Raptors	5.5	Blazers	6.5
Bucks	7	Sonics	7
Bulls	11	Clippers	7
Hawks	12.5	Suns	10
Cavs	12.5		

National Hockey League

EASTERN		WESTERN	
ATLANTIC		CENTRAL	
Flyers	44	Red Wings	44
Devils	39	Blues	41
Rangers	29	Predators	31
Islanders	29	Black Hawks	23
Penguins	22	Blue Jackets	23
NORTHEAST		NORTHWEST	
Maple Leafs	44	Canucks	41
Bruins	38	Avalanche	38
Senators	33	Flames	35
Canadiens	32	Wild	31
Sabres	27	Oilers	29
SOUTHEAST		PACIFIC	
Thrashers	36	Kings	36
Lightning	31	Sharks	33
Panthers	28	Stars	30
Hurricanes	26	Mighty Ducks	29
Capitals	23	Coyotes	29

NFL Standings

AFC East		NFC East	
Patriots	12-2	Eagles	11-3
Dolphins	8-6	Cowboys	9-5
Bills	6-8	Redskins	5-9
Jets	6-8	Giants	4-10
West		West	
Chiefs	12-2	Rams	11-3
Broncos	9-5	Seahawks	8-6
Raiders	4-10	49ers	6-8
Chargers	3-11	Cardinals	3-11
North		North	
Ravens	8-6	Vikings	8-6
Bengals	8-6	Packers	8-6
Steelers	5-9	Bears	6-8
Browns	4-10	Lions	4-10
South		South	
Colts	11-3	Panthers	9-5
Titans	10-4	Saints	7-7
Texans	5-9	Buccaneers	7-7
Jaguars	4-10	Falcons	3-11